

Hello, my name is Katelyn Lamprey. I am a second-semester sophomore at the University of Connecticut-Avery Point campus. I am honored to be present at this Appropriations Hearing and to have the opportunity to speak. It is so special to express my gratitude to committee members and the general assembly for all that they have done for the University of Connecticut. Even though these huge state funding decisions seem like they're simply benefitting numbers on a sheet, I am here to express my individual experience, in which Connecticut funding and UConn programs have both benefitted me and impacted the trajectory of my future. I am an English major, Sociology minor and looking towards a career in education. Being a first-generation college student responsible for my own tuition payments, I'm aware of the impact that access to education has on a person.

This academic year, 2021-2022, UConn provided me with \$16,530 in university grants—making it so my only payment this semester was \$423 towards tuition. Without financial aid, I would not be able to attend college.

Attending the University of Connecticut has given me an array of opportunities. During my time on campus, I work at the Avery Point Academic Center as a Student Tutoring Assistant, I work at the Avery Point Library as a Student Library Trainee, I am a member of the Creative Writing Club and I hold the position of Student Relations in Associated Student Government, where I mainly oversee clubs and assist students with other needs.

Two semesters ago, all five UConn student governments' signed a bill titled UConnect—an agreement that one representative from each campus's student government would meet monthly. I was lucky enough to be involved in this program thanks to Associated Student Government's President Julia Horlitz and Vice President, Zachary Boudah, who graciously and happily welcomed me to the UConnect team. UConnect has bred in depth, comprehensive conversations among all five uconn campuses tackling problems that each campus faces. From conversations such as food insecurity to sexual assault prevention, I'm proud to say that with our collaborative effort, UConnect is uniting UConn and truly finding solutions to current issues.

Being involved in UConn programs such as Associated Student Government has given me the opportunity to both speak up for myself and help other students. Without the help from the University of Connecticut, I would not have gained unique, individualized, leadership experiences that give me necessary skills for my future. Without funding from Connecticut, I wouldn't be receiving an education at all.

My goal is to give back to Connecticut, and to enrich the experiences of peers around me. In my future, I see myself providing an education in English, looking at literature from a sociological lens. My goal is to use all that I have learned, and will learn, to help those around me reach their goals. To understand, to educate, to expand mindsets, to give opportunity.

Being a resident of Connecticut is a great privilege and today, I would like to stress the importance that the University of Connecticut has held in the trajectory of my life. All I can say is that I hope others will get the same opportunities that I have gotten—and I will do anything in my power to support first generation, financially independent students get the education—not only that they deserve, but that they hope and dream for.

